

*from Mrs. Randolph N. Shreve
Westminster Village*

THE CHILDREN OF HANNAH SEAMAN BRASHER

*2741 N. Salisbury
St. Lafayette, Ind.*

H.1 Henry Brasher, b. July 6, 1800; d. May 1, 1852, "drowned in the Mississippi," according to his tombstone; m. Aug. 31, 1826 Susan McKee (b. Aug. 30, 1808; d. Dec. 9, 1877). The following are thought to be their children, their names appearing on the family monument in Woodlawn Cemetery, each listed as son or daughter of "H & S Brasher."

H.1.1 Mary Brasher, b. June 27, 1822; d. Apr. 17, 1828.

H.1.2 John McKee Brasher, b. Jan. 2, 1824; d. Aug. 17, 1825.

H.1.3 William H. Brasher, b. Jan. 17, 1830; d. July 16, 1859.

H.1.4 Hannah Brasher, b. Oct. 24, 1832; d. Sept. 20, 1851.

H.1.5 Henry Brasher, b. Jan. 11, 1838; d. Jan. 18, 1838.

H.1.6 Edward Brasher, b. Jan. 6, 1842; d. Nov. 30, 1861 ("Killed in battle at ——— Penn.")

H.1.7 George W. Brasher, b. July 4, 1845; d. Jan. 11, 1865.

H.2 Sarah Ann Brasher, m. Thomas Rogers, who was a ferryman on the Wabash River, according to the Beckwith history, p. 50.

H.3 Amanda Brasher, m. Saunder Phillips on Nov. 23, 1833.

H.4 Margaret Brazier (sic), m. Jan. 3, 1833 John W. Hitchcock. — ? ? ?

H.5 Robert Brasher.

H.6 Hannah Brasher.

H.7 Abigail Brasher (named for John Hunt's wife?).

H.8 Thomas Brassier.

Some of the names of the above children of Robert C. Brasher and Hannah Seaman come from census, marriage and land records. Note on the name: there are several variants of Brasher—Brazier, Brashier, Brassier, Brashear. It seems to have been pronounced with a long-A sound as in "late."

Vigo County, Indiana records show that the Disbrow family lived here and were associated with Brasher.

Problem: What became of Robert Brasher and the rest of his children? In Missouri there is a town of Brasher, in Pemiscot County, on the west bank of the Mississippi, in the Missouri panhandle. This may indicate that some of the family moved to that area and it suggests a line of further research. Thomas Brasher moved from Vigo Co., Ind. to Jasper Co., Illinois.

no — — — Thomas B. in " "

I did find a Hunt cousin in Montgomery Co., Ind. - Golden Hunt who = a — Brasher but she knew nothing of her husband's family — in fact, she died before I could learn his given name

THE BRASHER FAMILY

H. Hannah Seaman, b. 1782 in New Jersey; d. Sept. 27, 1843 in Terre Haute, Ind.; m. Robert Brasher, son of Henry Brasher and Lucy Clark (?), Dec. 1789, possibly in Washington, Pa. Burial in Woodlawn Cemetery, Terre Haute, with some other members of the family. *[Her son Henry]*

Beckwith, *History of Vigo and Parke Counties, Indiana*, p. 24, lists Robert Brasher and John Disbrowe as early settlers in Terre Haute soon after 1818. On p. 50 he records that Robert Brasher had a dwelling and hat shop at the southeast corner of 2nd and Walnut Street. This description appears on pp. 56-57: "Robert Brasher was a hatter by trade, and was one of those good, pious, quiet Christians inside and out, that we read of but seldom see. He was a tall, sparse man, and the veins in the backs of his hands were very large. He made excellent hats, with three trifling faults, namely uncouth in shape, too soft in body, and altogether too durable. I used to delight in the snap, snap, snapping and the twang, twang, twanging of that long bow of his as he beat up the fur. His wife was a very kind-hearted woman and prided herself on her hospitality. She was an excellent cook and much given to novel reading. Her three youngest children had several names each. When she stood at the door and called her absent sons (and they were generally absent), it seemed as if she was calling a school. If, however, she happened to be calling her daughters, one would hear half the female characters in *Children of the Abby*."

over

Mrs. Randolph L. Shreve
Apt. 3216

Dear Mr. Lewis:

9-7-80
2741 1/2 Salisbury St.
West Lafayette, Ind.
47906

I thank you so much
for your reply to my
letter about Robert Bra-
sher and the other
people I mentioned in
my inquiry.

Possibly, if I re-read
"Children of the Abbey",
I may find the names
of Cyrus and Ransom
used there in inasmuch
as Hannah was so fond
of the book.

First of all I do know
Alameda Mc. Collough.
We eat at the same ta-
ble at least three times
each week. But my ac-
quaintance reaches back
to the first days of Tipcoo,
our local genealogical
society. It was formed in
1968 when I first came
to live in Lafayette.

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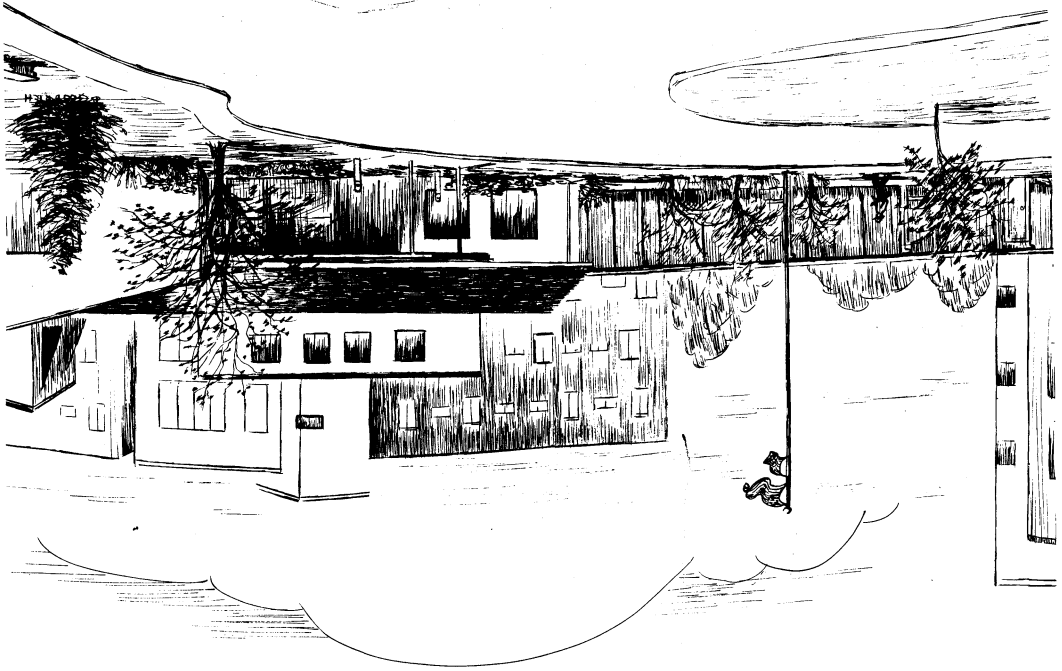
2/ my cousin, Helen Vogt, is covering Hannah Brasher and her sister Rachel, wife of John Wright and their sons, Senator George Wright of Iowa and Governor Joseph A. Wright of Indiana (1849-1857) whereas I am taking the Hunt family of the Seaman - Hunt - Wright book and Dr. Wm Seaman (formerly of Mich. State) is responsible for the Seamans. So I shall wait for Helen to come this month from California to see if she will want the photocopies you so kindly offered.

Indeed you may keep the Brasher page I sent you. In fact, a copy of the book is yours for the asking. When it was first published in 1957 I gave at least 150 copies to libraries for the postage book rate, in return.

Wm Seaman, d. 1814 in Washington, Pa. married Amy

3. Disherry (Disborough) in N. D. and was the father of 9 children. Wm was the wagon master in the Rev. War but, so far, we have not been able to identify the parents of Amy. This is why I made the in I query about Disborough in Vigo County. I believe James and John Disherry, who were early in Dearborn Co. were brothers of Amy. The name Disherry was also used in the township of Hamilton Co. O. adjoining Dearborn in Indiana. I have spent a great deal of time with these clues but, so far, they have lead to no proof.

I shall follow up the reference in the Star to Helen Benbridge. Richard was the son of Thomas, the early banker of Lafayette. The James name you mentioned is part of the Truxtun-Benbridge family I feel sure. I wish I knew at least one living descendant who could help me

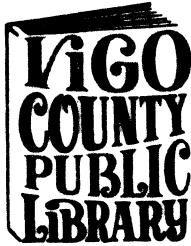


4 find the rest of the family for the Truxton Association. It is my deceased husband's family who wants the Truxton descendants.

I am the Irene M. Strieby Lbr. of Eli Lilly and Co. 1934-1959 who wrote the letter of 1953. I married Prof. Shreve of Purdue in 1968.

Thanks for your help. I do appreciate it and I hope you are able to read this writing of mine written in bed at age 86.

Sincerely,
Irene M Strieby-Shreve



Mrs. Irene Strieby-Shreve
Apt. 3216 Westminster Village
2741 N. Salisbury St.
West Lafayette, IN 47906

September 12, 1980

I hope this letter finds you in good health, and thanks for your offer of a copy of a book on the Seaman-Hunt-Wright families (that you wrote). However, the library already has a copy of it.

In your last letter you mentioned the Ijams-Truxtun-Banbridge families, hoping there was at least one living descendant that could help you see the connection.

The Vigo Co. Public Library has a copy of a book (with approximately 90 pgs.) Ancestors of Frank Burch Ijams, (1886-1966), written by Mrs. Alice Ijams Williams in 1966. Her address is 6633 Timberlane Road, Tulsa, Oklahoma. In Mr. Ijams' family (ancestry) the Warrens (of Mass.) are prominent, also the Burch's. The Ijams are descended from Eli Ijams (1790-1857), who was born in Maryland.

Frank Burch Ijams, the subject of the above-mentioned book, had a sister-Alice Warren Ijams. Their mother was a Sallie Warren, who married William Putnam Ijams on Feb. 6, 1876. The daughter, Alice Warren Ijams married Richard W. (Wetherill) Benbridge. I believe you said your husband was related to the Benbridges of Lafayette. And, apparently, they were connected with the Dr. Wetherill family, also of Lafayette. Dr. Wetherill was instrumental in setting up the Tippecanoe Co. Historical Society, I believe. Alameda McCollough could tell you about that. However, in this book I did not come across any Truxtuns as you mentioned in your last letter. It's possible that in a 90 page booklet I might have failed to see it though the name is not included in the index. Nor could I find the Truxtun name in our files or in the local county histories, so that I think they must not have lived in the Terre Haute area.

We could probably supply you with some more information on the Richard W. Benbridges of Terre Haute. They lived on S. 6th St. next door to Anton Hulman, Jr., former owner of the Indianapolis 500 Racetrack. Mrs. Benbridge died a few years ago at an advanced age. You might try writing her niece, Mrs. Alice Ijams Williams that has the Tulsa, Oklahoma, address mentioned earlier in this letter. Or, address your inquiries to the Genealogical Column of the Sunday Terre Haute Tribune-Star, 721 Wabash Avenue, Terre Haute IN 47807.

David N. Lewis
Special Collections Dep't

Brasher, Robert in Buckworth

p. 24 listed as a settler in TH in 1823

p. 37 listed as settler who came to
TH on or before 1818

p. 50. Had a dwelling & hat shop on
S. E. corner of Second & Walnut

p. 56-57 paragraph quoted from book
(Seaman, Hunt Wright Genealogy)

p. 87. list of "leading businessmen of TH
Brasher 1 of 3 haters

* p. 151. Charter members of Freemasons
1818 TH. Lodge no. 19

Brasher, Robert Bradsky

p. 221 "Land transactions -"
1829 Curtis Gilbert to R.B.
2nd lot 4 March 24

p. 292 "Board of Commissioners - Proceeding
May 1819"

R.B. selected as petit juror for 1819

p. 372 - dwelling & hat shop (R.B.) at
2nd & Walnut

p. 380 - paragraph for Beckwith pp 56-57

p. 431 - Census of 1835

lists → 1 white male over 10 2 ^{white} males under 10
1 white female over 10 2 white females under 10

p. 437. among those listed ~~was~~ living.
in TH in 1837

p. 606 listed as an officer of Masons
(1819) office: Tyler

Blaker, Robert in Cordit

p. 81 listed as ^{charter} member of First Congregational
Church (1834)

p. 154, 155 - mentions hat shops in
early TH. quotes from author
Capt Earle (quotes paragraph from
Beckwith pp. 56-57)

Brasher Robert in Essex

p. 128 listed as one of early
settlers

listed as 1st father

Biaker, Part in Sagey

p. 92 listed as building a cabin

p 93 " " 1st letter in TH.

p. 94 quotes paragraph from
Beckwith pp 56-57

p 101 mentions that R.B. had
dwelling & hat shop on SE corner
2nd Walnut

A N N O U N C E M E N T

Publication of the following book has been set for April 1981 -

DESCENDANTS of WILLIAM SEAMAN of
Washington County, Pennsylvania
and

Allied Families: HUNT,
BRASHER, McCAMMANT and WRIGHT

*-The Brashers were
of Terre Haute-*

Compiled and edited by Helen E. Vogt of Brownsville, Pa.,
Irene M.S. Shreve of W. Lafayette, Ind. and William M.
Seaman of Wheeling, W. Va., collaborators.

The long-awaited revision and updating of two previous attempts to document the descendants of WILLIAM SEAMAN of Washington County, one in 1952 and the second in 1957, is now in the hands of the printer, McClain Printing Co. of Parsons, W.Va., and is expected to be out and ready to mail some time in April of this year.

The progenitor of the Seaman family in America was Captain John Seaman (1610-1695) founder of Hempstead, Long Island. Largely in order to prove lineage for membership in various patriotic organizations, descendants of Capt. John's seven sons, have been quite well documented with a few exceptions, one being descendants of great-grandson, "William, went to Pa." and about whom nothing more was recorded. Some fifty years ago when the three collaborators began their separate searches for family lines, they all traced to their earliest known forebearer, William Seaman b. ca. 1735-40, d. 1814. During all the intervening years, intensive research has been carried on, tracing descendants of the eight surviving children of William and Amy Disbrow Seaman down to the present 10th and 11th generations.

This 350-p. volume is more than a genealogy; it is a history of activities of not only those who still carry the Seaman name, but of the collateral lines of the four daughters, Mary Hunt, Hannah Brasher, Charity McCammant and Rachel Wright. These lines have carried into some of the most illustrious and prominent families in the USA and it is with pride that we tell their stories, and show how they looked and lived, in more than 40 pp. of pictures and early maps, official documents, etc. Revolutionary service has been established for William Seaman in the New Jersey Continental Line.

This announcement will go out to the many known descendants whose current addresses we have in our files. There will be many others, long out of contact with us, whom we cannot reach in this manner. We enclose an order form and ask that, if you wish a copy, you fill it out and return along with any names and addresses of others who could be interested in the book.

Printing costs have, like everything else, gone "through the ceiling" and to keep the price of the book at \$20.00 we cannot afford case, or hard binding. However, the experienced McClain printing people have "perfect binding" facilities at their plant, and they assure us that today's process with a laminated plastic cover is very durable. We think the distinctive cover, using an early Wash. Co. map, and the book itself will be a handsome and informative addition to your library. PLEASE SUPPORT OUR GREAT EFFORT and expense, to provide you with a full and interesting family history.

Illustrated Historical Atlas of Indiana 1876

it states that John Disbrowe and Robert Brasher were in Terre Haute before 1823
 I'm also interested in Disbrow name

Wm Seaman and Amy Disberry (Disbrow-Disborough)
 came from N.J. to Washington Co. Pa.
 about 1794. (Amy may have died in N.J.)

Ch.

- b. 1767 Joseph Seaman = Lydia Vaughn ^{died in Warren Co. O}
 b. 1765 Mary Seaman = Aaron Hunt " " "
 Jonas Seaman = Martha Forbes ^{lived} " " "
 John D. Seaman = Mary Braddock ^{lived where}
 Wm Seaman = Margaret Braddock ^{died in Pa.}
 Benjamin Seaman - ^{died young}
 Charity Seaman = John McCamant " " WVa
 b. 1782 Hannah Seaman = Robert Brasher ^{died 1843 in TH.} " " Ind.
 b. 1784 Rachel Seaman = John Wright " " Iowa
 [Parents of John Wright, Indiana]

Hannah and Robert Brasher may have lived in or
 near Cincinnati before coming to Vigo Co.
 c. 1816. He was said to have been a hatter
 children

Henry b. July 6, 1800 d. May 1, 1852 "Drowned in
 Mississippi" (?). m. Susan McKee, Aug. 31,
 1826 She was b. Aug. 30, 1808 d. Dec. 9, 1877

Sarah Ann m. Thomas Rogers, ferryman on
 Wabash River
 Amanda m. Saunders Phillips Nov. 23, 1833

- ? Margaret [Brazier] m. John W. Hitchcock Jan. 3, 1833
 Robert
 Hannah
 Abigail
 ? Thomas [Brazier]

subject to correction

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Aug. 14, 1980

Reference Librarian
Public Library
Terre Haute, Ind.

Dear Librarian:

Several years ago (25 at least) I did much searching in Terre Haute for the Brasher family. Hannah, wife of Robert, was the sister of my great great grandmother, Mary Seaman Hunt of Warren Co. O. We are now in process of revising our Seaman-Hunt-Wright book first published in 1957.

1. As you can see from this tear sheet of the 1957 book, I found references to Robert Brasher on p. 34, 50, 56-7 and used them in the book. But yesterday, I saw briefly a copy of an index to a history of Vigo Co. (Beckwith & ?) wherein there were about 8 references to Robert Brasher. At your convenience will you see if any of the references I did not have are significant. If they are, please reply on the enclosed card, telling what the cost of Xerox copies of the additional pages would be if you think they contain additional helpful information.

For your information there is a brief sketch of Henry Brasher in the DAR volume of "Soldiers and Patriots of the American Revolution buried in Indiana" pub. 1938 by DAR. The children of Henry Brasher and Lucy Clark Brasher are given; Robert is the name of one of them. Most of the children were married in Dearborn Co., Ind. but not Robert. I am trying to document that this Robert, son of Henry, d. 1824, in Dearborn Co. is the same

Robert Brasher who = Hannah Seaman. I hope I can do this.

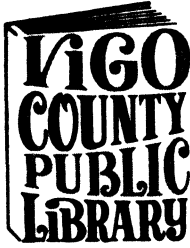
2. A few years ago (5-6) a lady wrote me about Margaret who = John Hitchcock. She did not believe Margaret was a child of Robert Brasher; she may have been correct. I could not help her but referred her to Mrs. Hughes who was connected with your library and gave help to many persons. My regards to her if she is still there. If, in your correspondence file you find the name of this person, I'd like to have it and her address which I believe was in Temple, Texas.

3. Finally I have been asked by the Truxton family descendants to find out more of the son of Thos. Benbridge who came to Terre Haute from Lafayette. Thos Benbridge was a banker in Lafayette about the time of the Civil War. Thos Truxton, Commodore of the Constellation, victorious in the war with Tripoli in 1797, had a daughter Sally who married Henry ~~Ben~~ Benbridge Jr, parents of Thos Benbridge. My husband belonged to this family which is why I have been called upon to find Indiana descendants. If you have anything on Benbridge in your files, I should like to know the cost of photocopying.

This indeed is a long letter but it does not require a detail reply - just "yes" or "no" and the cost of photocopying if anything significant is found.

Sincerely,
Irene M. Shreve

The reason I am interested in John Disbrowe g.v. p 47 of our book is because Hannah Seaman Brasher's mother was Amy Disbrow - Disborough - Disberry and John Disbrowe is thought to have been Amy's brother about whom we have not found anything helpful.



Mrs. Randolph Norris Shreve
Westminster Village, Apt. 3216
2744 N. Salisbury St.
West Lafayette, IN 47906

August 20, 1980

It's very interesting to communicate with the descendants of Terre Haute's earliest residents!

Thanks to the kind assistance of Becky Huggins, another library employee, my research into the Robert Brasher family was made easier.

Regarding Robert Brasher, nearly all of the Vigo County histories quote Beckwith in his description found on pgs. 56-57, "Robert Brasher was a hatter by trade, and was one of those good, pious, quiet Christians..."

This is the sketch that you quoted in your book on the Seaman-Hunt-Wright families. This is probably the best source of information that we have about him.

Then I suppose, as with most persons of long ago, we have "bits and pieces" of information.

I will say at this point that the V.C.P.L. charges 10¢ per page for photocopies plus postage in case you want something photostated.

Here is what I found:

According to Rev. B. Condit, Robert Brasher was a charter member of Terre Haute's Congregational Church. I have done considerable research on this church (which is long gone) and know about its first minister - Rev. Merrick Jewett.

According to Oakey's History, Mr. Brasher built one of the first log cabins in Terre Haute. He was the first hatter. His dwelling and hat shop was on the southeast corner of 2nd and Walnut Sts.

According to Bradsby's History, Robert Brasher (in "Land Transactions") bought the second Lot 4 from Curtis Gilbert on March 24, 1829. He was a petit juror for 1819 (pg. 292). He was included in an informal census of Terre Haute in 1835 (pg. 431) 1 white male over 10, 1 white female over 10, 2 white males under 10, 2 white females under 10. Pg. 606 indicates that he was an officer in the Masons (tyler).

Beckwith, whom you have already quoted, says that Rob't. Brasher was a charter member of T. H. Lodge (Masons) #19.

You stated that Henry Brasher married Susan McKee on Aug. 31, 1826.

Perhaps you didn't know that a "Modesitt" was the officiant. I think it may have been C. B. Modisett, Justice of the Peace. He was the first person to build a log cabin in Terre Haute (1816).

The 1850 Census Index states that these Brashers were living in Harrison Twp. (Terre Haute): Cyrus Brasher and Ransom. There was also a Henry Brashear (you mentioned this spelling in your letter, I believe.) We do have these census records and can photocopy them for 10¢ each plus postage if you are interested.

I did not find any Disbrows in the Vigo County Census of 1850, nor in 1840. There was a listing in the 1820 Census for a James Disberry in Dearborn Co., Ind. I believe you mentioned this spelling variation also. Beckwith pg. 51 states that in early Terre Haute (circa 1823) there were only "two houses on Fourth street. The northern-most was on the west side of the street, near the corner of Eagle, a small frame house occupied by John Disbrow. When his little daughter died, I, (William Earle), for the first time, realized that the young could die..."

This is about all I can tell you about the Disbrows. I don't suppose they lived in T. H. very long.

You also inquired about the Benbridges. We have a few references to a Helen Benbridge, who was a trustee of the Normal School. She died, Nov. 11, 1964 (see Indianapolis Star for Nov. 12th). In addition, the Richard Benbridges used to live in Terre Haute for many, many years. Mrs. B. died a few years ago. How her husband may have been related to the Thomas Benbridges is unknown to me.

Did you check DeHart's Past and Present of Tippecanoe County, Indiana and other similar references at Lafayette? Perhaps they'd explain the connection.

You also inquired about correspondence we (at the library) had had with a lady from Temple, Texas. I could not find this letter, and Mrs. Hughes hasn't worked here for many years.

In our surname file I did find a letter (Nov. 1, 1953) from an Irene M. Strieby of Indianapolis. She also inquired about the Robert Brasher family and thought they had left Vigo County by 1860. I don't know whether she'd still be alive.

Our last bit of correspondence regarding the R. Brasher family is on a yellow sheet of paper written in pencil and is unsigned. Perhaps you wrote it?

It lists a Joseph Seaman (1767 - died in Warren Co., Ohio), also a Mary Seaman who married Aaron Hunt, a Jonas Seaman who married Martha Forbes and various other Seamans: John D., William, Benjamin, Charity, etc.

I think this last item may be some of your notes though it is unsigned.

In closing, I noticed you lived in Westminster Village. If you know Almeda McCollough, who also lives there, the former curator of Fowler House museum; please give her my regards. I visited with her in October, 1979.

Sincerely,

D. N. Lewis
Special Collections Dep't.

P.S. The Mrs. Richard Benbridge mentioned above did leave some descendants. I believe a niece and nephew, but their surname is not Benbridge - but Ijams. The Benbridges are not mentioned in Vigo County histories, perhaps because they haven't lived here quite that long.

Did you intend for us at the library to keep your page from the Seaman-Hunt-Wright genealogy?

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GEN.

Apr. 70

402 N. Meridian
Indianapolis, Ind.
March 1, 1953

Mr. Loring Halberstadt
Terre Haute, Indiana

Dear Mr. Halberstadt:

In the Indiana History Bulletin I saw that you had given a talk based upon material found in the record books of the "Old Settler's Association of the Wabash Valley".

For several years I have been trying to piece together the family of Robert Brasher. On another sheet I shall put down the data I have.

Will you let me know if you found any mention

of this Brasher family in the record books? I am inclined to believe most of them were gone from Vigo Co. by 1860 - where I do not know.

I was in the court house last spring but found little of interest in the county records. I was also in the Genealogical Dept. of the Fairbanks Library. Mrs. Hughes has always been courteous and helpful to me; we have corresponded about other Indiana families.*

Sincerely yours,
Irene M. Strickly

I have the inf. from the county history and also from a volume of tomb stones